



EXHIBIT

DATE 1/19/2011

HB 129

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January 18, 2009

The Honorable David Howard, Chairman
Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Chairman Howard and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) I would like to apologize to your committee and to the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance for not being able to attend yesterday's hearing on HB 129, Representative MacLaren's bill regarding utilization and external review. Unfortunately, I was testifying in Senate Public Health at the same time as the hearing on HB 129.

When the question came from your committee about the stance of BCBSMT on the bill, Mr. Laslovich text me asking our position. At the time of the text, I had not had an opportunity to review the proposed amendments and the best answer I could give was that BCBSMT had no position.

I have since seen the proposed amendments and I am pleased to say that BCBSMT supports the bill with the amendments.

BCBSMT already complies with most of the provisions proposed in HB 129. However, it is an important bill for Montana consumers in that they can have local experts (the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance) enforcing these regulations as opposed to forcing Montana consumers to deal with a Washington bureaucrat thousands of miles away.

BCBSMT hopes this committee sees fit to pass HB 129 with amendments.

If any of you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Frank G. Cote'
Senior Director of Government Relations
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana